AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Previously Presented)** Spherical molding sand produced by the process of claim 6, wherein the spherical molding sand comprises as major components Al_2O_3 and SiO_2, and has an Al_2O_3/SiO2 weight ratio of from 1 to 15 and an average particle size of 0.05 to 1.5 mm.

2. **(Original)** The spherical molding sand according to claim 1, wherein the spherical molding sand has an average particle size of 0.05 to 0.5 mm and a spherical degree of at least 0.95.

3. **(Cancelled)**

4. **(Original)** The spherical molding sand according to claim 1, wherein the spherical molding sand has a spherical degree of at least 0.98.

5. **(Previously Presented)** Molding sand comprising 50% by volume or more of the spherical molding sand as defined in claim 4.

6. **(Currently Amended)** A process for producing a spherical molding sand, comprising: fusing in flame powdery particles comprising as major components Al_2O_3 and SiO_2, and having an Al_2O_3/SiO_2 weight ratio of from 0.9 to 17 and an average particle size of 0.05 to 2 mm, and

forming spherical particles with a water absorption of at most [[0.8%]] 0.3% by weight from said powdery particles.

7. **(Previously Presented)** A casting mold comprising the spherical molding sand as defined in claim 1, alone or in combination with known molding silica sand or a fire-resistant aggregate, mixed with an inorganic binder selected from the group consisting of clay, water and glass silica sol; and an organic binder selected from the group consisting of furan resin, a phenol resin and a furan-phenol resin.

8. **(Previously Presented)** A casting mold comprising the spherical molding sand as defined in claim 5, alone or in combination with known molding silica sand or a fire-resistant aggregate, mixed with an inorganic binder selected from the group consisting of clay, water and glass silica sol; and an organic binder selected from the group consisting of furan resin, a phenol resin and a furan-phenol resin.

9 - 12. **(Cancelled)**

13. **(Previously Presented)** A spherical molding sand produced by the process of claim 6, wherein the spherical molding sand comprises as major components Al_2O_3 and SiO_2, and has an-Al_2O_3/SiO_2 weight ratio of from 1 to 15, an average particle size of 0.05 to 1.5 mm and a spherical degree of at least 0.95.

14. **(Cancelled)**

15. **(Original)** The spherical molding sand according to claim 13, wherein the spherical molding sand has a spherical degree of at least 0.98.

16. **(Original)** A molding sand comprising 50% by volume of the spherical molding sand as defined in claim 15.

17. **(Cancelled)**

18. **(Previously Presented)** A casting mold comprising the spherical molding sand as defined in claim 13, alone or in combination with known molding silica sand or a fire-resistant aggregate, mixed with an inorganic binder selected from the group consisting of clay, water and glass silica sol; and an organic binder selected from the group consisting of furan resin, a phenol resin and a furan-phenol resin.

19. **(Previously Presented)** A casting mold comprising the spherical molding sand as defined in claim 16, alone or in combination with known molding silica sand or a fire-resistant aggregate, mixed with an inorganic binder selected from the group consisting of clay, water and glass silica sol; and an organic binder selected from the group consisting of furan resin, a phenol resin and a furan-phenol resin.

20– 23. **(Cancelled)**